

Letters to the Editor

ISCO3 Data Base, a New Tool for Doctors and Researchers in the Area of Ozone Therapy

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The International Scientific Committee of Ozonotherapy (ISCO3) was created in Vienna on October 8th, 2010. The ISCO3 is an independent board from national and international associations or federations of ozone therapy and commercial companies. One of the main purposes of ISCO3 was to develop and maintain a library of all published and presented papers on ozone therapy. The library is now a reality and contains indexed and not indexed papers, books, theses, historical papers and other documents. For its creation a kind of "brain storm" was generated among the members and external experts. Finally, the previous experience of Dr. Miika Sallinen and Dr. Jose Baeza was up-dated and reorganized in order to overcome the purpose of ISCO3.

The data base is supported by the free software Zotero. Zotero is an easy-to-use tool for collecting, organizing, citing, and sharing different research sources. Zotero is an extension for the Firefox web-browser. It runs in its own window within Firefox, separately from the web pages. The data base is organized in different files and sub-files for an easier localization of the scientific content. Topics concerning ozonized oils or water are separated from ozone therapy. In the same way, inside files of ozone therapy clinic, pre-clinic, veterinary or other topics are separated.

The level of access to the data base is public and free and was created with two different levels of access:

a) Regular users (those without computer skills) can see in the web site an organized list of all records of the data base. For instance, by clicking in the right column files and sub-files they can see the published books about ozone therapy. Users can also get the URL link of free manuscripts, access to PubMed and in some cases the authors's e-mail. For ethical reasons manuscripts under copyright are not on line.

b) Advanced users should install the Zotero free software, study the instructions of the software provider and use full possibilities offered by Zotero.

Some of the benefits of Zotero for advanced user concern the use of:

- Citation Style Language (CSL) to properly format citations in many different bibliographic styles. Zotero supports all the major styles (Chicago, MLA, APA, Vancouver, etc.) as well as a great many journal-specific styles.
- Zotero's Word and OpenOffice plugins to insert citations directly from the users' word processing software. This makes citing multiple pages, sources, or otherwise customizing citations a easier. In-text citations, footnotes and endnotes are all supported.
- Shared group libraries ISCO3 Ozone to collaboratively manage research sources and permanent up-dated materials.

An example of the possibilities of the data base: An advanced user needs a list of a group

of clinical evidences supporting the use of ozone in hepatitis for a research project. Just clicking Zotero icon in the Firefox web-browser, he can go directly to the file: Ozone Therapy / Clinical / Hepatic Billiary. Using the right-click button, and selecting the option “create a library from a collection” after selecting the style (such as Vancouver style) is possible to save a .rtf document with a list of references about this topic.

Today the ISCO3 ozone data base contains more than 1,600 records and will grow up day by day. In the near future some trained scientists selected from all over the world will also up date the data base. In that way, papers about ozone therapy that are not indexed in the most used data banks will be accessible for the scientific community in the area of

ozonotherapy. Interesting researches about this topic conducting in Cuba, Egypt, Russia or China, etc. will be available in this electronic library.

The ISCO3 ozone data base is not only a potent research tool but is also essential to support the wide group of scientific evidences with the purpose of introducing step by step the ozone therapy as a regular medical practice. I strongly recommend all scientists involved in ozone research and practitioners to consult and use the data base as a daily tool.

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